

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 20 of page 3 of the application as follows:

Referring to Figure 1, the inventive pressure release valve assembly is generally indicated at 10. The release valve 10 includes a tubular body 12 having an open end 14, [[and]] a closed end 16, and a side wall 15 extending from the open end 14 to the closed end 16. The closed end 16 includes at least one aperture 20 for venting pressurized gas and/or steam, as described in greater detail below. A sector-shaped recess 21 corresponding to the aperture 20 is formed in the closed end 16. The aperture 20 is formed at a bottom surface of the recess 21. Preferably, four petal-shaped apertures 20 are formed in the closed end 16 of the body 12, each being positioned within its own respective recess 21. Most preferably, apertures 20 having a collective area ranging between 12-24 mm². For example, in one particular embodiment each aperture 20 has an approximate width of 1.8 mm and approximate length of 2.6 mm. The shape and size of the apertures 20 permits the pressure to be rapidly exhausted. The body 12 can have any suitable cross-sectional shape, such as square, oval, octagonal, and triangular. However, as shown in the figures, the body 12 preferably has a circular cross-sectional shape.

Support for the introduction of a “side wall 15” is found in the drawings. No new matter is added.